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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SCHOFIELD  
Serial No.: n/a  
Filed: Contemporaneous Herewith  
Entitled: Vacuum Pumping System and Method of Operating  
a Vacuum Pumping Arrangement  
Atty. Dkt.: M02B160

Group Art Unit: n/a  
Examiner: n/a

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The Examiner's attention is directed to the documents identified on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B "Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant." A copy of each non-US patent document is enclosed.

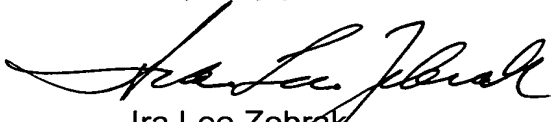
Please consider all the listed documents and list them on the cover sheet of any patents to issue from the subject application.

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or within three months of the date of entry of the National Phase of an international application or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(b), no additional fee is due. As a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any fee required by this submission.

Very truly yours,

Date: May 26, 2005  
The BOC Group, Inc.  
Legal Services - Intellectual Property  
575 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, NJ 07974  
(908) 771-6469

  
Ira Lee Zebrak  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 31,147

Attachments  
Forms PTO/SB/08A & PTO/SB/08B  
Cited References

PVN:bjl

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

***(Use as many sheets as necessary)***

**Complete if Known**

Application Number

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

SCHOFIELD

## Art Unit

**Examiner Name**

Attorney Docket Number

M02B160
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Sheet	1	of	3
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> *Number <sup>4</sup> *Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	3	EP 1 234 982 A	08-28-2002	Varian S.p.A.		
	4	DE 199 13 593 A 1	10-05-2000	ILMVAC GmbH		
	5	DE 101 14 969 A 1	10-10-2002	Leybold Vakuum		
	6	DE 100 32 607 A 1	01-24-2002	Leo Elektrone..		
	7	DE 100 43 783 A 1	03-14-2002	Leybold Vakuum		
	8	EP 0 898 083 A2	02-24-1999	BOC Group plc		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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JC13 Rec'd [REDACTED] PTO 26 MAY 2005

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	SCHOFIELD
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	M02B160

Sheet	2	of	3
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## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> *Number <sup>4</sup> *Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	9	JP 5033044	02-09-1993	Daido Steel Co		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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SCHOFIELD

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Sheet 3

of

3

Attorney Docket Number

M02B160

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	10	United Kingdom Search Report for Application No. GB 0229353.8; Date of search: July 16, 2003	
	11	International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/GB 03/05380; Date of mailing of the International search report: March 18, 2004	

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